

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Present:

Gwen White, Jana McGee, Jeff Jewels, Rebecca Swanson, Molly O'Donnell,
Teddie Mower, Dave Rollo, Bill Brown

Regrets: Gary Charbonneau

Public: Andrea Jobe

Public Comment: Andrea announced an upcoming bat box building workshop. The group will be donating and selling the boxes to organizations and individuals.

Announcements:

Carol Kugler from the HT is looking for ideas for the Down to Earth section.

Green Drinks will be on January 27 and will include a sustainability visioning effort.

The Terrible Horrible Bike Ride will be on February 13.

ICEY and the MCEC will host a weatherization event on Valentine's Day.

Approval of Minutes: December 2015 meeting minutes were approved without any changes.

Report on the 2016 Work Session

Primary interests for next year seem strongest in energy innovation (which Jacqui will outline in more detail below) and youth outreach.

Presentation by Gwen White on Sustainability Reporting Options

Jacqui and the new mayor received a letter from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). The organization has broadened its focus to include water, forests, and other topics. Over 300 cities and many corporations around the world are sharing data and are ranked according to their performance.

The CDP is a questionnaire, and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is a reporting framework. CDP questionnaire: includes sections on governance, emissions, etc.

The governance section addresses elected officials, the geography of the community being addressed, population, sustainability goals, collaborations with businesses, etc.

Risks and adaptations: evaluates city efforts to assess climate change risk, review process for progress and management, plan for adaptation, plan for climate change.

Opportunities: opportunities from climate change – renewable energy, technology opportunities, etc.

Emissions for local government operations, for community as a whole: looks at Scopes 1 (direct emissions), 2 (indirect), and 3 (commuters and other emissions arising indirectly); reduction plan, external verification, methodology.

Strategy: renewable energy, emissions reduction plans, water supply risk, water supply management

Submissions to CDP for this year are due in April of 2016.

Gwen will compare the CDP method to GRI at the next BCOS meeting. Quick overview: GRI focuses on holding a specific organization responsible, so focus is narrower than STAR Communities; GRI also doesn't result in a score.

Do CDP or GRI address sequestration as one solution to carbon emissions? Not directly, but they do evaluate different types of land use that would impact this.

Report from the Co-Chairs

Work session was very productive. Would be good to continue these types of discussions. Discuss a draft work plan as part of new business.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui gave an overview of energy innovation potential in the Certified Tech Park, including both reduced environmental footprint and increased community resilience. A city team went to Fort Collins and the Rocky Mountain Institute's eLab Accelerator to explore options, and are continuing to discuss the possibilities as the CTP project moves forward.

Comment: Consider having Jeremy Rifkin or other experts visit town to discuss the concept – could IU, city, Crane work together to further the discussion?

Committee reports and updates

- a. Environmental Commission Planning Committee: 5 development reviews, including:
 - a. Mother Bear's location proposed on W side of town
 - b. Assisted living facility

b. Environmental Commission: Are working on addressing the disinfection byproduct issue. The EC chair has suggested an outside meeting to discuss the issue further.

c. Bring Your Bag Bloomington update: on hold, so take this off the agenda for now.

New Business: plan to talk about the 2016 work plan at another work session.

Monroe Lake Master Plan – everyone should take a look

The meeting adjourned at 7:34.

Next Meeting: February 9, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.